

Partly cloudy to-day and to-morrow; no change in temperature; variable winds. Highest temperature yesterday, 80; lowest, 68. Detailed weather reports will be found on editorial page.

## FRANCE HAS FAITH IN DEBTS CONFERENCE; TO CUT REPARATIONS

Negotiating to Have America Take Part in Settling Problem.

JUSTIFIES U. S. CLAIMS

Will Not Contest Any Item of Washington's Bill for War Dues.

GOES AS FAR AS BRITAIN

Proposes to Abandon Gold Mark for Every One England Waives.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Sept. 3.

France already is negotiating unofficially for some sort of American participation at the forthcoming conference on inter-allied debts and reparations. According to well informed circles to-day the advice of Col. James A. Logan, Jr., American observer with the Reparations Commission, to the French to accept the Belgian compromise, as it would signify France's conciliatory spirit, has decided Premier Poincaré to set in motion his general plan for a reparations conference which the Balfour note undermined for the purpose of considering a reduction in the total reparations Germany must pay. This step of course will come up with the question of an Allied debt settlement.

Conversations were immediately opened both in Paris and London as to the possibility of America sending an advisory observer should the Allies get together and it is hoped that the pourparlers will advance sufficiently during the next few days to enable the French to send a note to Washington expressing clearly Poincaré's desire to have the European problem settled once and for all, and then, if the United States considers it opportune, to call another conference, preferably just after the American elections, at which Allied unity will be consecrated and the way opened for the settlement of both French and English transatlantic debts on a basis which will further strengthen international finances.

### Seeking British Views.

The French still are reticent regarding Poincaré's reply to the Balfour note, preferring to wait until reason in London before arguing the details.

It was his ardent desire for America to be represented at future council tables that inspired Poincaré openly to justify in totality the American claims while pleading for a reduction of the British claims on the grounds that the war was fought to preserve the integrity of the British Empire as much as France's territory.

The NEW YORK HERALD correspondent has been informed that M. Parmentier frequently stressed during his recent visit to the United States that France does not desire to contest any portion of America's bill and moreover that he received numerous assurances from American financiers that even they did not consider France's debt to Great Britain entirely equitable.

As a result Parmentier reported that it was useless to proceed further with direct negotiations with the United States until a new basis for European arrangements is found and this will take at least the next two months.

Set only by Poincaré's willingness to abandon a gold mark of France's claim on Germany for every gold mark remitted by Great Britain, but he will also waive a similar sum due from her smaller allies, as proof of France's desire for European stability. If the entire British claim on Germany and France is not to be waived, the French suggest it would be possible to arrange for a reduction of the total of Germany's debt and then divide any payments exacted from Germany between France and Great Britain, the latter to take the share for paying her debt to the United States, what France will thus be enabled to carry on the reconstruction of her devastated regions.

As to the American claim on France the feeling here is that Parmentier's visit has paved the way for a long term agreement at low interest and that once American agreement is reached France, with her factories and agricultural property restored, would gradually pay off what is owing the United States. In any event it is considered virtually certain that the moratorium issue may be set aside until after Poincaré's scheme for conferences with the United States is fully evolved.

### Expect Disarmament Demand.

French official circles now expect a new demand by Great Britain for continental disarmament to provide the first step in any financial settlement, but oppose this both before the League of Nations and any international conference as being impracticable until France's security, economic and otherwise is fully assured.

The *Liberté* last night predicted such a move by Premier Lloyd George in order to regain American favor, but considers that it would throw the whole machinery of economic rehabilitation into confusion. It is evident that even the press closest to Poincaré is surprised at the definiteness with which he declared that France could not expect any concession from the British until France's economic and otherwise is fully assured.

Poincaré's next move will go into detail as to the use France has made of the funds she received and will outline his idea of an equitable settlement. His original plans have been changed slightly.

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## Francis Jammes, Poet, Refuses Legion of Honor

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"THANKS, but I don't want it," wrote the French poet Francis Jammes to the Minister for Public Instruction when notified that the Government had conferred on him the Legion of Honor in recognition of his literary merit. It is said this unusual declination of this honor is due to the envy and jealousy of other poets who three years ago succeeded in having Jammes's name stricken from the list of those who get the decoration, and Jammes then said he never would accept it.

## WOMEN ROUT BANDIT TRIO IN GEM BATTLE

Mrs. Sweeney and Niece Fight as Chauffeur Stands Covered by a Pistol.

\$15,000 JEWELS SAVED

Masked Men Found at 2:30 in Morning in Sheepshead Bay Home Get \$1,000 Loot.

Mrs. Catherine Irene Sweeney, owner of the Thomas Meehan Lumber Company, and her niece, Mrs. Catherine McNaught, were attacked by three masked men armed with pistols and blackjacks early yesterday, after they had entered the Sweeney home at 1816 Avenue N. Brooklyn. The burglars had already stolen \$500 in cash and jewels which they had found in a bedroom, but the two women fought them so fiercely that the robbers fled before they could get \$15,000 worth of jewelry that Mrs. Sweeney wore. While two of the bandits struggled with Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. McNaught in a lower hallway, another kept Mrs. Sweeney's chauffeur, Michael Fein, of 538 Prospect avenue, The Bronx, standing against a wall on the stairway landing, with a pistol pointing at him.

Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. McNaught, who are friends of Commissioner Enright and were his neighbors at Sheepshead Bay ten years ago, reached their home at 2:30 in the morning in the machine driven by Fein. Mrs. Sweeney told the chauffeur to enter the house and turn on the lights, and for him to stay all night, as it was too late to go to his home in The Bronx, as was his custom.

Fein entered, lighted the lights in the lower hallway and started up the stairs. At the first landing he was met by a man whose face was masked with a handkerchief and who carried a revolver in one hand and a blackjack in the other.

"Back up against the wall and put 'em up," the man ordered. "If you don't I'll puncture you."

Fein obeyed. Just at this moment Mrs. McNaught and Mrs. Sweeney entered the hall and two other men appeared on the stairs. They, too, had their faces masked with handkerchiefs and carried revolvers and blackjacks.

### Women in Battle.

"Go down and attend to the women," said the man who appeared first. "I'll take care of this guy."

The two masked men went slowly down the stairs. Mrs. Sweeney saw them coming and screamed. She and Mrs. McNaught started for the front door, but the two bandits brushed past them and slammed it shut. Then they pushed the women back into the hall.

"Nice diamond you've got there," one of them said. "I guess we'll take it."

He reached out a hand toward Mrs. Sweeney's throat, but Mrs. McNaught jumped between them.

The bandit at her side struck her on the head with his blackjack. She staggered back against a glass door panel, smashing it. The other man then shoved Mrs. McNaught to the floor, hit her at her throat and began tugging at her jewelry, but she managed to fight him off, at the same time screaming for help. In the meantime Mrs. McNaught was struggling with the bandit who had struck her, backing slowly toward a large window in the hallway. She reached this finally and thrust her arm through it, the glass breaking with a crash.

"We'd better beat it!" shouted the man on the stairs. "You're making too much racket."

### Three Arrests Made.

One of the bandits then struck Mrs. Sweeney on the head with his blackjack, knocking her unconscious, and the other shoved Mrs. McNaught to the floor. Then all three ran down the cellar stairs, with Fein at their heels, although he was not armed. But the men escaped through a cellar window before the chauffeur could catch them. Fein then went to the home of David Levin at 1832 Avenue N and asked that the police be notified, after which he jumped into Mrs. Sweeney's automobile and went to Kings Highway, where he found Patrolman James Quigley.

A quick search of the house showed that nothing had been stolen but the jewelry and the cash that had been left in the bedroom. On the dining room table, however, was a whisky bottle that had been opened and two glasses. Detectives reached the scene a few minutes later, and when Detective Wallot went outside to search the grounds, he found an automobile standing near the house. In a quick search of the car he found the names as Herman Simon of 302 Madison avenue, his brother Harry and his cousin, Harry C. Simon, of 973 Myrtle avenue, all of Brooklyn. They found in the pockets a small whisky glass similar in pattern and design to the two left on the table in the Sweeney home. They denied any knowledge of the robbery.

## FOUR NEW YORKERS DIE IN MOTOR CRASH NEAR MIDDLETOWN

Another Seriously Hurt as Car on Holiday Trip Hits Telegraph Pole.

LAID TO STEERING GEAR

Other Machines in Party Went On, Not Knowing of Crash at Curve.

CAR FALLS INTO NIAGARA

Woman Driver Killed in Catastrophe, Unable to Stop at 200 Foot Gorge.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Sept. 3.—Four persons were killed and one seriously injured late last night when a touring car crashed into a telegraph pole on a curve in the highway near McKees pond, between Rockhill and Bridgeville, Sullivan county. The dead are Martin Berger, 365 East Eighth street, New York; Philip Munchenberg, 37 Avenue D, New York; John Bayles, 1826 Clinton avenue, New York; and a man believed to be A. Simms, but whose identity has not been fully established. Abram Bayles, a brother of John, is in the Thrall Hospital here suffering from severe injuries. He is believed he will recover. He is supposed to have been in the wheel.

The men were on their way to White Lake, Sullivan county, to spend Sunday and Labor Day. Two other cars bearing members of the same party had gone on ahead and did not learn of the accident until this morning.

The car is believed to have been going at high speed when something went wrong with the steering gear, causing the car to swerve from the road and strike a pole, throwing the occupants into the air. It is said the car was running without lights.

The men were found by Ralph Codrington and Alex. King, who took them to the office of Dr. Peter S. Brakey, a local physician. The man believed to be Simms was brought to the hospital here, Bayles dying on the way and the two others soon after reaching here.

The accident happened at the same spot at which Martin Laturrette, manager of the Postal Telegraph office at Middletown, was killed by an automobile a few years ago. John and Abram Bayles were partners in the printing business at 108 Fulton street, New York. The men are said to have been on their way to a party at Rockhill, N. Y., and were driving a Buick sedan. Dr. Brakey, who is coroner of Sullivan county, and who directed the removal of the men to the hospital, will hold an inquest on the death of the man who was killed in that county, while the inquest on the others will be held here. It is expected that the inquiry will be most searching into the cause of this is the worst accident in this section of the country in a long time.

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## France's Nationwide Strike Complete Fizzle

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THE Communist effort to provoke a nationwide strike in support of the Havre strikers having failed, the syndicalist leaders are now trying to keep the movement alive by providing a national strike fund. A call was sent out to-day to all unions to devote one day's pay per month to such a fund. The union strike fund already is exhausted and hundreds of workers have given notice of their intention to return to work this week.

## DRIFTS FOUR DAYS ALONE IN HIS BOAT

Batchelor Was Without Food After First Day Motor Engine Went Dead.

SAVED BY COAST GUARD

Picked Up Off Port Jefferson After Giving Signals to Cutter.

Thomas H. Batchelor of 119 West Fulton street, Long Beach, was rescued off Port Jefferson by United States Coast Guards early yesterday after he had been drifting about Long Island Sound for four days in a thirty foot motor boat, alone and without food and trying to contend against heavy winds and storms. Batchelor was able to go home after he was rescued, but he showed signs of the suffering he had undergone, and it will be several days before he will be able to work.

Batchelor left Springfield, Mass., for New York last Wednesday in his boat, which he had just purchased and which he thought was in perfect condition. He went to Saybrook with a pilot, and from there started to New York alone. At that time his engine seemed to be working perfectly, the distance was not great and he neglected to store the craft with sufficient provisions to last him more than a meal or two. The weather was so good and the engine seemed to be running so well that at his first meal Batchelor ate practically everything on the boat that was eatable.

Batchelor was sleeping for a few hours Wednesday night and awakened to find himself out of sight of land, without food and with no other ships in sight. He flew signals of distress all day Tuesday, but no ships came near, and he never got near enough to shore for help. He was unable to improvise a sea anchor.

### Engine Halts as Rain Starts.

His troubles began late Wednesday afternoon. Engine trouble developed and he was not able to make repairs in time to get the boat going again before dark. He tried to work at the engine during the night, but a heavy cold rain began falling, adding greatly to his troubles. Water leaked into the engine compartment and put the ignition out of commission. He was unable to improvise a sea anchor.

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### Power Fails to Return.

Thursday and Friday and Saturday passed in much the same manner. Batchelor was beginning to feel weak from lack of food; he was drenched to the skin from the heavy rains that fell and the heavy seas that swept over the boat. He was unable to make repairs in time to get the boat going again before dark. He tried to work at the engine during the night, but a heavy cold rain began falling, adding greatly to his troubles. Water leaked into the engine compartment and put the ignition out of commission. He was unable to improvise a sea anchor.

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## DEMOCRATS TO PICK TARIFF AS BIG ISSUE IN CONGRESS FIGHTS

Believe It Will Bring Popular Support and Hide Their Own Faults.

REPUBLICANS WABBLE

Majority Realize Danger of Attempting to Defend Measure.

PARTY POLICIES IGNORED

Candidates on Both Sides to Conduct Campaigns in Hit or Miss Way.

By LOUIS SEIBOLD.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Washington, D. C., Sept. 3.

THE Congressional candidates of the two major political parties generally reflect complete indifference to fundamental issues that are usually depended on to dictate results in election contests.

The nearest approach to a program adopted by either is of Democratic fabrication. The candidates of that party will talk tariff, Newberryism and Republican "incompetency." Having contributed a proportionate percentage of the votes by which the \$5,000,000,000 bonus raid was passed in the Senate both Republican and Democratic candidates will probably keep quiet about that political white elephant.

The Republican leaders have not yet made up their minds as to what they are going to do with the revenue tariff scheme on which they originally depended to pull them out of a hole in the off year contests. Instead of providing a bridge over the insecure economic chasm, the Fordney-McCumber tariff bill still stays perilously in a blast of adverse criticism which menaces substantial anchorage.

### Plundering Candidates.

The majority of Republican candidates for the Senate and House who are already beginning to pack up their bags to canvass for votes among the home folks continue to wobble and wabble between the devil and the deep blue sea of tariff uncertainties. Most of them fully realize the danger of attempting to defend a measure which has been assailed not only by the Democratic opposition but by agencies usually in sympathy with Republican revenue undertakings, including the newspapers.

The success of the Democratic attempt to create the impression that the tariff bill now in conference will add tremendously to the cost of living among all classes has influenced most of the Republican candidates for reelection to Congress to display a pronounced tendency to talk about everything else in their bid for votes.

Their behavior in this respect naturally has encouraged their Democratic rivals to give the star place in their campaign to the tariff. It is the one definite and clear cut issue which, if they believe, will not only make the greatest appeal to popular support but will enable them to cover up their own delinquencies due to leadership, lack of organization and anything suggesting a uniform program.

### Democratic Policy Is Negative.

Most of the Democratic undertakings in Congress have been of the negative character, destructive rather than constructive. The chief ambition of most of the Democratic leaders in both Houses has been to match the Republican plans, a notable case being the bonus, the net result of the agitation over which will probably turn out to be a waste of five or six months and a presidential veto.

The Democratic leaders completely ignored the policies of the Wilson administration in dealing with this problem, and also the advice of such capable leaders as Senators Underwood, Williams and Glass and Representatives Garrett and Garner, who counseled opposition on the certainty that such a policy would make the strongest appeal to the taxpayers of the country.

However, the bonus has been passed by both Houses and all individual political debts on that score paid in full. There is more reason to believe that it will turn out to be a boomerang in that it will not help any candidate and may keep a great many at home.

It is of the question in the minds of the leaders of both parties whether the Newberry case is going to prove to be a deciding factor in several Senatorial contests. Little, if anything, is heard about it in those States where an effort has been made to capitalize it. Of much greater value, according to the Democratic leaders, is the confusion, due to lack of supreme Republican leadership, particularly as applied to the Congressional establishment.

It is the Democratic theory that the leaders of both parties whether Republican "joy ride" which started off with a popular majority of 7,000,000 two years ago is at an end or is drawing to a close. The Democrats count on the Newberry case as going to prove to be a deciding factor in several Senatorial contests. Little, if anything, is heard about it in those States where an effort has been made to capitalize it. Of much greater value, according to the Democratic leaders, is the confusion, due to lack of supreme Republican leadership, particularly as applied to the Congressional establishment.

## MINES OPEN NEXT MONDAY; HARD COAL TO BE SCARCE, BUT NO FAMINE IN WINTER

DAUGHERTY WARNS LOOSE TALKERS IN INJUNCTION

THE NEW YORK HERALD yesterday telegraphed to Attorney-General Daugherty inviting him to reply to the criticism that has followed the obtaining by the Government of the railroad strike injunctions. The following answer was received:

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept. 3, 1922

THE NEW YORK HERALD: In reply to your telegram you may say that the Government's answer to all these discussions (meaning the charge that lawful acts are prohibited by the injunctions and that they are in violation of Section 29 of the Clayton act, specifically referred to in the original message) will in due time be made in open court if it is necessary, and that the Government, in the meantime, will pay no attention to loose and irresponsible conversation on the part of people who may themselves yet be brought into court.

DAUGHERTY, Attorney-General.

## EIGHT PERISH IN FIRE BLAMED ON STRIKERS

Ten Also Hurt in Burning of a Pennsylvania R. R. Repair Shop in Pittsburgh.

TWO MEN IN CUSTODY

Rescuers Pelted With Stones—Building Believed to Have Been Saturated With Oil.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. PITTSBURGH, Sept. 3.—Eight men were burned to death and ten others severely injured to-day in what probably was an incendiary fire which destroyed the large car repair shop and commissary of the Pennsylvania Railroad at Thirty-third street, which since the beginning of the railroad strikers' strike on July 1 has been used as a barracks for strikebreakers, many of whom had been brought here from other cities.

Two men were taken into custody by city detectives this afternoon and questioned concerning the fire, and have been lodged in central police station where they are being detained incommunicado. No charge has yet been placed against them on police records. Police officials refuse to disclose what, if any, evidence they have against the men.

Striking shopmen are believed to have started the fire after saturating the building with oil.

The identity of only one of the dead men has been established. He is J. S. Carr of Baltimore. He died in the Columbia Hospital, Wilkensburg. The bodies of six others who perished were not rescued from the smoking ruins of the building until this afternoon and they were charred beyond recognition.

### One Body Still in Ruins.

Railroad officials who made a careful check of their employees decided that eight had perished in the fire, and that one body was still in the ruins of the shop.

### The Dead.

BRUCE, ALVIN L., 21, Keweenaw, Ill. CARR, J. S., 37, repairman, Baltimore. CUSTODION, FRANK, 23, laborer, DAVIS, DAVID L., 46, repairman, DUNN, EDGAR, 35, repairman, HARPER, GERALD, 24, machine helper, INOZANETTO, ERNEST, 23, repairman, PARSONS, WALTER L., 23, repairman.

### The Injured.

BURNS, J., 26, 149 West Eighty-fourth street, New York. BURNS, JOHN, 25, 523 Green street, Philadelphia. CLIFFORD, RAY, 22, Tulsa, Okla. CANTAGALLO, LOUIS, 32, 613 Eighth street, Philadelphia. LATCH, ALECK, 33, Pittsburgh. MINORUJAJUNA, JAMES, 26, Tokio, Japan. KIRK, PETER, 33, Pittsburgh. MYZALYNSKI, JOHN, 36, Pittsburgh. SCHAEFER, C., 37, Pittsburgh. WINTER, JAMES, 23, Pittsburgh.

Six investigations—Department of Justice, State, county, city, railroad and district fire marshals—are under way in an effort to determine whether the fire was incendiary. All of the investigations are proceeding on the theory that the building was set on fire by strikers who are antagonistic to the railroad's efforts to operate its shops with strikebreakers.

From the beginning of the strike the Pennsylvania Railroad has not been seriously handicapped by the walkout and for many weeks has been operating nearly normal.

### Steel and Frame Structure.

The building which was destroyed was a large two story steel and frame structure. Its loss is placed at \$250,000. The first floor of the building had been used as a repair shop and commissary and the second floor as sleeping quarters.

The fire was discovered at 5 o'clock in the morning by a negro cook. He ran to the second floor, and from bed to bed, shouting and shaking the sleepers to awaken them and warn them of their peril. Within five minutes the building was in flames and the escape of some men had already been cut off. They perished when the floor fell in, a few minutes later.

Those who were aroused rushed frantically about, fighting their way through the smoke and haze to reach the